



**STATE OF NEW JERSEY**

***Board of Public Utilities***

***Two Gateway Center***

***Newark, NJ 07102***

***www.bpu.state.nj.us***

**DIVISION OF RELIABILITY  
& SECURITY**

IN THE MATTER OF PROPANE GAS ASSOCIATION )  
REQUEST FOR MODIFICATION OF THE ONE CALL  
OPERATIONAL SYSTEM

**ORDER**

) DOCKET NO. GO02100732

(SERVICE LIST ATTACHED)

BY THE BOARD:

This matter has been opened to the Board by the filing of an application by the New Jersey Propane Gas Association ("NJPGA"), by its counsel, seeking a modification of the operations of the One-Call Damage Prevention System in the State. Specifically, NJPGA seeks a system whereby request for "mark-outs" of underground propane facilities will be screened through the New Jersey One Call propane database prior to being transmitted as a "broadcast" ticket for those propane operators who have selected to use the address specific database option available under the One-Call system. This approach, claims NJPGA, will significantly reduce the number of mark-out requests received by individual propane facility owners for these broadcast tickets, which cover requests for mark-outs on streets or segments of streets that are not in the One-Call database, and should result in an increase in the overall safety and protection of property associated with excavations throughout the State.

Following a recitation of the history of the involvement of the propane industry in the Underground Facility Protection Act, N.J.S.A. 48:2-73 et seq., and the One-Call Damage Prevention System, N.J.S.A. 48:2-76, during which NJPGA makes a number of unsupported statements that are not germane to this application, NJPGA asserts that the Board's prior Order in this matter, as well as the Request for Proposal ("RFP") upon which the operations of the One-Call Damage Prevention System is founded, requires that a process be established to match requests for mark-outs with actual street addresses for propane facilities that select the address specific database option.

Currently, the One-Call Damage Prevention System works as follows: the New Jersey One-Call operator receives a request for a mark-out, which includes the street address of the particular excavation site. Upon receipt, the One-Call operator, after clarifying questions to the excavator, if necessary, compares the excavation address with its database of known underground facilities, and thus generates the "tickets" for each utility with underground facilities on the property. In the event that the excavation address does not match the addresses in the One-

Call operator's database, such as when the address is too new to be in the mapping system, the One-Call operator generates what is known as a "broadcast ticket."<sup>1</sup> This broadcast ticket goes out to all facility operators in the municipality, and is designed to ensure that, no matter the cause of the confusion, all parties who may be impacted are placed on notice.

NJPGA notes, however, that this process results in a significant number of "false positive" tickets, which involve locations that do not exist in the database or which are in no way associated with propane facilities. "Clearing" these tickets, or otherwise ensuring that the broadcast ticket does not implicate a propane facility, results in significant expenses to what can be small propane gas operators, without a significant increase in safety.

In order to remedy this, and in keeping with the RFP, NJPGA has requested that an additional step be added prior to propane receiving notice on these broadcast applications. Specifically, NJPGA asks that the One-Call operator should compare the address on the broadcast ticket with those addresses listed in the propane address specific database. In the event the address of the broadcast ticket does not match any listed location for propane facilities, the propane operator will not receive that broadcast ticket. In essence, all broadcast tickets will go through a second round of review prior to issuance to the propane community. It is expected, claims NJPGA, that this will result in a significant decrease in tickets issued to the propane industry without any significant decrease in safety or protection to the general public.

The One-Call operator, in response to NJPGA's application, notes that the overall application is acceptable, but takes exception to a number of the allegations made in the initial application as to the prior operation of the program. Further, the One-Call operator notes that the "broadcast" tickets do not result in any income to the operator and that there is not now and has never been a financial incentive for the issuance of those tickets. Finally, in addition to noting its general agreement with the approach, the One-Call operator calls upon the Board to ensure that only those operators who have selected to use the street index database option be included in the scope of this Order.

After careful consideration, the Board HEREBY FINDS the approach highlighted by NJPGA and uncontested by the One-Call operator valid and appropriate for a number of reasons. First, the method appears to satisfy the requirements of the Board's prior Order and RFP in this matter, and allows for the appropriate "address specific" level of notice requested by the propane industry. Furthermore, the reduction of "false positives" will likely result in an increase in overall safety, as the members of the NJPGA will have the ability to devote more resources to reviewing the reduced number of tickets. Finally, the increased dependence upon the propane database will encourage the propane industry to ensure that the database is updated in a timely manner. Failure to do so will expose the individual propane operators to significant liability in the event an undisclosed propane facility is struck or otherwise goes unmarked. In fact, in order to ensure that this proposed method for reducing "broadcast tickets" does not result in an increase in risk to the community at large, the members of the NJPGA who will be impacted by this Order are HEREBY ORDERED to update their database with the One-Call operator within 72 hours of the installation, modification, relocation or removal of underground propane facilities. Failure to do so will be considered a violation of the Underground Facility Protection Act and this Order and will subject the operator to any and all remedies available at law to the Board.

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<sup>1</sup> While NJPGA claims that "broadcast tickets" were never mentioned in the hearing or in the RFP, broadcast tickets were explicitly approved by the Board in the On-Call operator's tariff and are and have been a part of the system for some time.


Within that framework, the Board FURTHER ORDERS that the One-Call operator is directed to modify the process of transmitting "broadcast tickets" in the event of a failure to match a requested excavation address with underground facility address in the following manner:


Once a ticket has been classified as a broadcast ticket, the One-Call operator shall compare the address on the ticket to the addresses contained in the databases provided by those underground facility operators who have selected to use a street index database. If the excavation site address matches an address in the street index database, the operator who owns or operates a facility at that address shall be notified; if no match is found, those operators with street index databases shall not be issued the broadcast ticket.

Finally, the Board FURTHER ORDERS that this Order shall have no impact upon any owner or operator of underground facilities covered by the Underground Facility Protection Act, N.J.S.A. 48:2-73 et seq. and/or the One-Call Damage Prevention System, N.J.S.A. 48:2-76 who has not selected the street index database option.

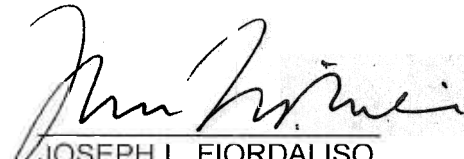
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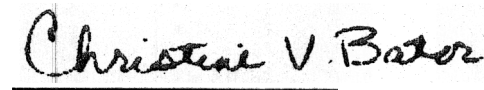
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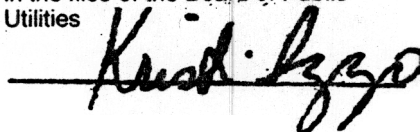
  
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ATTEST:

  
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I HEREBY CERTIFY that the within  
document is a true copy of the original  
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